IMT Nuremberg Archives

H – 919

International Court of Justice

H0919-0002

OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT OF TESTIMONY FOR THE DEFENSE OF ORGANIZATIONS, TAKEN BEFORE A COMMISSION APPOINTED BY THE INTERNATIONAL MILITARY TRIBUNAL PURSUANT TO PARAGRAPH 4 OF THE ORDER OF THE TRIBUNAL DATED 13 MARCH 1946.

THURSDAY, 23 MAY 1946

COMMISSIONERS:

Captain Joseph Tubridy
Mr. I. D. McIlwraith

THE SS

(The Commission convened at 1000 hours).

HANS JUETTNER, a witness, took the stand and testified as follows:

BY CAPTAIN TUBRIDY:

Q Will you ask the witness to raise his right hand and repeat after me:

I swear by God, the Almighty and Omniscient, that I will speak the pure truth and will withhold and add nothing.

(The witness repeated the oath).

CAPTAIN TUBRIDY: Will you please be seated.

DR. KOESSL: Mr. Chairman, I ask permission to take over the questioning of the witness.

CAPTAIN TUBRIDY: Yes, you may proceed.

DIRECT EXAMINATION

BY DR. KOESSL:

Q What was the reason for your employment as chief of the command office of the Waffen SS and of the SS main leadership

H0919-0003

office?

A At the beginning of war I was staff officer for the SS Fuehrungshauptant. Before the war the Inspector, Colonel General Hauser, went into combat. I was his representative, this inspector, his deputy. As such, I had to carry on negotiations with the Wehrmacht. For that reason, Himmler ordered that I was to remain behind and that I was to take over the inspector of the SS Verfuegstruppe.

As Inspector of the SS Verfuegunstruppe I set up the first division of the SS Verfuegungstruppe in material and personnel.

CAPTAIN TUBRIDY: What was the date that he was engaged in this position?

THE INTERPRETER: He took over the position on the 1st of September 1939. THE WITNESSS: After this division had been set up the Inspector of the SS Verfuegungstruppe was changed to the Command Office of the SS Verfuegungstruppe. This Command Office belonged to the SS main office.

THE WITNESS: I emphasize that a command office was created without a command. As a result of difficulties with the Chief of the SS main office the Command Office of the SS Verfuegungstruppe was taken out and on Himmler's orders the SS main leadership office was set up.

This high-sounding name was actually wrong. This

H0919-0004

office did not lead direct but all the tasks for training, training, equipment and material replacements for the replacement units, were dealt with in this office. No chief was appointed for the main leadership office at that time. As Chief of the Command Office of the SS Verfugungstruppe I became Chief of Staff of the main leadership office. I worked in that capacity until January 1943.

In January 1943 I was appointed Chief of the main leadership office. I held this position until shortly before the Armistice; I don't know the date exactly any more. On the 5th or 6th of May 1945 Himmler removed me from my position and I was released from the SS.

BY CAPTAIN TUBRIDY:

Q So far you have only spoken of the Verfuegungstruppe. What about the term Waffen SS?

A In a public speech Adolf Hitler when he mentioned the field troops in battle , he mentioned the armed units of the SS and invented the term Waffen SS. That was in 1940. Clarification of this term is Main Leader. The Waffen SS meant the SS Verfuegungstruppe, and therefore the units of the Totenkopfverbeaude, Death Head formations, were transferred into the Waffen SS. The Totenkopfverbeaude division set up by the Totenkopf formations about in the fall of 1940 was transferred to the labor field of the main leadership office. The replacement units of this division --

COLONEL GRIFFITH JONES: Replacement units of

H0919-0005

this regiment?

THE WITNESS: Replacement units of the Totenkopf division.

COLONEL GRIFFITH JONES: Yes.

THE WITNESS: And the Totenkopf standard bearers 5 to 18 were placed under the main leadership office. The guards of the concentration camps were also to be transferred. This was not done in effect because the Chief of the SS main office, Heissmayer (?), was made Inspector General of the SS Totenkopf formation. To place this Obergruppenfuehrer under me wasn't possible for official reasons. I had no influence on these units for this reason and I requested the dissolution of the Totenkopf standard bearer and I requested that the guard battalions be made independent. These guard battalions were later separated and were placed under SS General Pohl, p-o-h-l.

Obergruppen Pohl was Chief of the economic and leadership main office, but after Obergruppen and General Eckel (?) had left, the concentration camps were under his orders. As a result, under his orders the concentration camps and the guard battalions were coordinated and placed under his command.

Since the question of service in the guard battalions was not recognized as defense service or war service, the High Command of the Wermacht, Field Marshal Keitel asked Hitler for a decision. The decision of Adolf Hitler was transmitted by Field Marshal Keitel.

H0919-0006

It was that service in these guard battalions would not be recognizedxxxxxxxx as war service and defense service by him. Only after the end of the war he would make a xxxx decision xxx on this question.

Over-stepping his authority, Himmler thereupon made these guard battalions units of the Waffen SS; and in the Army service regulations these units were called Waffen SS units. The members of these battalions thus not only became Waffen SS but were distinguished from the regular troops of the Waffen SS, which I call the regular Waffen SS. The command posts of the concentration camps were not taken into the Waffen SS at that time. They contained the basic personnel of the concentration camps. Now, in captivity, I learn that the Inspector or Commander of the concentration camps without our knowledge temporarily assigned the men of the command post guard battalions in order to make them members of the Waffen SS.

COLONEL GRIFFITH JONES: What was that?

THE INTERPRETER: Temporarily assigned the men of the command post to the guard battalions in order to make them members of the Waffen SS.

THE WITNESS: In my personal opinion, this was illegal. It was kept secret from us, the Waffen SS.

COLONEL GRIFFITH JONES: May I just say this: The answer to this question has now taken nearly half an hour. This I understood yesterday is the first of xx 36 questions. It looks, therefore, as if this witness is going to take

H0919-0007

at least 12 hours to complete his evidence; and judging by what we have heard up to now, not one single word has been relevant.

DR. KOESSL: The witness has answered two other questions which I will not ask.

CAPTAIN TUBRIDY: That isn't the real point, Dr Koessl. The point is we have taken now about half an hour in preliminary questions which ~~so far as evidence is concerned~~ could be stricken from the record, so far as the issues which are supposed to be before this Commission are concerned. And there has not been any real substantial contribution by this witness to any of the ultimate things which we want to hear. ~~We have heard all his past service and how he was transferred from one organization to another. We haven't heard anything as to what has gone on with regard to the substance of the~~ organization.

~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~

XXXXXXXXX DR. KOESSL: It is very important to establish what the relationship of the concentration camp guards was to the Waffen SS.

CAPTAIN TUBRIDY: I agree with ~~that~~ you if ~~he~~ you would pursue that line of questioning.

DR. KOESSL: Shall I continue with the examination of this witness?

CAPTAIN TUBRIDY: Yes, but along the suggested lines.

BY DR. KOESSL:

Q Into which main office was the command of the

H0919-0008

Inspector of the Deaths Head Formations and the Inspector of the concentration camps? That is, the offices of Eckel.(?) The office of SS Gruppenfuehrer~~x~~ activity.

A These offices were the SS main office under Obergruppenfuehrer Heissmayer. (?)

Q What was the difference between the SS main office and the SS main leadership office?

A The main leadership office worked on military affairs of the Waffen SS, and the command office of the general SS was attached to that office.

CAPTAIN TUBRIDY: Will you translate that question?

THE WITNESS: During this war this had no significance. It was to become important only after the war.

~~LIEUTENANT~~ COLONEL BROOKHART: I must object to further questions along this line on the ground of the disagreement in comparison with the criminal charts of the Prosecution.

DR. KOESSL: I am questioning this witness from the point of view of the Supreme Command of the SS.

~~LIEUTENANT~~ COLONEL BROOKHART: My objection still stands.

CAPTAIN TUBRIDY: Mr. Koessl, we ~~have~~ devoted ~~the~~ a whole morning to listening to the organizational set-up of the SS. A chart was introduced and it disagreed with the chart which was produced by the Prosecution; and we would like to confine the evidence which is to be presented now to new matter not connected with the organizational set-up of the SS.

H0919-0009

DR. KOESSL: I should like to establish where the inspectors of the Totenkopf formations and of the concentration camps fitted into the organization.

CAPTAIN TUBRIDY: Very well, but I wish ~~he~~ we could do it in just about two questions.

DR. KOESSL: I should like the witness to explain briefly once more how this office of Eckel (?) fitted into the organization until Pohl took over, and what the set-up was then.

CAPTAIN TUBRIDY: Can't we ask a ~~simple~~ question as to who was in charge in the SS organization of these units that you want to ask questions about?

DR. KEMPNER: Could I help ~~her~~? the interpreter?

CAPTAIN TUBRIDY: Yes, if you please, Dr. Kempner.

(Dr. Kempner speaks in German).

~~EXXXXE~~
XXXX CAPTAIN TUBRIDY: ~~I~~ And then can't you ask what his position was in the SS organization?

BY DR. KOESSL:

Q In whose hands was the command of the concentration camp guards and what was the organization of the concentration camp guards until Eckel (?) went to the front?

A Under Gluecks (?) as inspector and under Heissmayer (?) as chief of the SS main office.

Q Were these two agencies agencies of the Waffen SS?

A No.

H0919-0010

Q Later was there any relationship to the Waffen SS?

A By Himmler's order the guard battalions were battalions of the Waffen SS.

Q Did you in your office have anything to do with concentration camps?

A Neither personally nor for the main leadership office did I ever have anything to do with concentration camps.

Q Now we will discuss the tasks of the main leadership office. You said that the name was not correct, in view of the activity of this office. What was the ~~kxkk~~ task of the SS main leadership office?

A The SS main leadership office had to train replacement units for the Waffen SS. It had to supply equipment; it had to train commissioned officers and officers for the troops at the front; and it had to secure personnel replacements for the troops. In addition, the division of the Waffen SS when they were drawn from the front after losses, were freshened up by material and personnel by the SS main leadership office.

Q Briefly, what was the task in the development of the SS Verfuegungstruppe before the war?

A The SS Verfuegungstruppe was created by Hitler's order in 1935 as far as I know. It was a guard unit. Elite troops.

CAPTAIN TUBRIDY: Was it guard elite troops or was it elite troops?

H0919-0011

THE INTERPRETER: He says it means elite troops.

DR. KOESSL: It is the fault of the translation that the proceedings take so long.

CAPTAIN TUBRIDY: Well, let's get along.

THE WITNESS: The SS Verfuegungstruppe were to be built up to a final strength of 20.000 men. By the out-break of the war it had reached a strength of about 18,000 men. It consisted of four regiments, Leibstandante (?), Germania, Deutschland -- artillery regiment, an information battalion and an engineer battalion. The units were scattered throughout the German Reich. Their main task was to protect the Fuehrer and to provide honor guards, honor companies, for mass meetings. For that reason the men were selected according to size and racial appearance. At the out-break of the war the SS Verfuegungstruppe was in no way trained or prepared for war. For that reason the SS Verfuegungstruppe were not enthusiastic at the out-break of war, because we knew that a large part of us would have to fall, since the training had not been completed. We did not consider service as militarism, since militarism is an end in itself in service for a soldier. We were not encumbered with traditions. We were a young unit which was to and did appear as parade troops and was neither Wehrmacht nor police. The service was fulfillment of defense service, military duty.

BY DR. KOESSL:

Q What role ~~does~~ did the SS Verfuegungstruppe play in

H0919-0012

the invasion of Austria, Sudetenland and the Protectorate?

A The march into Austria and the Protectorate was a complete surprise to us. The SS Verfuegungstruppe had made no preparations in mobilization. They received orders to move in, as they were under the command of the Army. I myself was on an official trip and knew nothing about this. I was called back by telegram and learned it in this way when the invasion had already taken place.

Q Was the same thing the case in all three situations?

A It was not so in the march into the Sudetan German area. There had been previous negotiations in that case and we knew that we would have to occupy the territory.

Q What about the March into the Protectorate?

A That was just as much a surprise as the invasion of Austria.

Q What can you tell us about the formation of foreign units in the Waffen SS?

A There was a total of 14 foreign divisions in the Waffen SS. These divisions were set up from the individual countries. We trained and equipped them, and we provided them with German key personnel. This German Waffen SS personnel was under foreign officers, and in disciplinary respects as well as others. We did not represent that from the standpoint of mastery.

Q Were there any reasons against the establishment of these foreign units?

H0919 - 0013

A I myself opposed the formation of these units, because this took arms away from our own units, and the training was very difficult because of the language barriers. As I predicted, these units almost collapsed the first time they were sent into combat and they lost almost all of their arms and equipment. Almost without exception they had to be re-equipped.

Q Why were the replacement troops of the Waffen SS not put in the replacement Army?

A Placing these troops under the command of the commander of the replacement army would have been a quite possible solution. This was not done, intentionally. In order to facilitate the establishment of the young troops if this had been done by the commander of the replacement army it would have taken a great deal of time, because the bureaucracy in the ministry offices of Germany was very great.

Q What was the relationship of the Waffen SS to the Army?

A The relationship to the Army was in general good. The main leadership office was coordinated with the commander of the replacement army, and the cooperation was excellent. In the field also in general the relationship between the Waffen SS and the Army was excellent, but there were some difficulties which arose through jealousy because our divisions as motorized divisions were differently equipped from the horse-drawn divisions of the Army; but not dif-

H0919-0014

ferent from the motorized divisions of the Army.

MR. GRIFFITH JONES: The equipment of the Waffen SS cannot possibly be relevant. It is an absolutely sheer waste of time.

THE INTERPRETER: Would you repeat that, please.

COLONEL MR. GRIFFITH JONES: I say the equipment of different units in the SS cannot be relevant by any of the rules of evidence and is sheer waste of time.

DR. KOESSL: These statements are only made to show why it was possible at all anywhere for there to be any tense relations.

CAPTAIN TUBRIDY: To be any what? What relations?

DR. KOESSL: Between the Army and the Waffen SS.

COLONEL GRIFFITH JONES: The relations between the Army and the Waffen SS are purely irrelevant. Unless the defense is really making an effort to cut down this evidence into some kind of reasonable limits this proceeding will go on indefinitely.

DR. KOESSL: This is not irrelevant because it tends to show that the Waffen SS was a part of the Army.

CAPTAIN TUBRIDY: Well, it seems that in trying to show the connection between the Waffen SS and the Army -- I assume that you are trying to show that the Waffen SS are really troops similar to other troops of the Wehrmacht.

DR. KOESSL: The same as the troops of the Army.

CAPTAIN TUBRIDY: But the point that has been made by Colonel Griffith Jones is that this line of

H0919 - 0015

questioning is hardly showing that.

DR. KOESSL: I assume that the Waffen SS cannot have been a criminal organization if its activity was the same as that of the Army.

CAPTAIN TUBRIDY: Mr. Koessl, you don't seem to appreciate the, you might say, points of view which have been expressed by the Prosecution and which have been expressed by the Commission here. Now I would suggest that if you have received a suggestion, that you please try to pursue it, because if you don't, you know, it leads us nowhere.

DR. KOESSL: Yes, I want to follow suggestions but I have to prove that the Waffen SS was not a criminal organization.

COLONEL BROOKHART: Mr. Commissioner, may I add an objection that this witness has not been shown to be qualified to speak for the Army.

DR. KOESSL: (Speaks in German).

CAPTAIN TUBRIDY: Just a minute, Mr. Koessl. Was the Waffen SS part of the Wehrmacht?

THE WITNESS: It was, the fourth part.

BY CAPTAIN TUBRIDY:

Q Did it have a separate commander in the field?

A No. It was under the Army.

Q Who was the commander of the Waffen SS organizations in the field?

A They were under the Commander in Chief of the Army and the General Staff of the Army.

H0919-0016

Q When the Wehrmacht was in the field with the SS units, was that organization responsible to only one leader of the SS troops?

THE INTERPRETER: Would you repeat the question?

BY CAPTAIN TUBRIDY:

Q When the Waffen SS were in the field, were they responsible to only one leader in that particular area?

A No, they were incorporated into the Army corps, into Army units like any other unit of the Army.

Q But they were responsible to one leader, weren't they, as SS units in that particular army?

A No. They were under the Generals of the Army.

Q But weren't they responsible to one leader, one SS leader, of that Army?

A No.

Q Was each SS unit under the command of some Wehrmacht commander?

A Yes, they were incorporated into the Army, with the sole exception of replacements and clothing.

Q Would you answer the question directly, please. When the Waffen SS was in the field, to whom were the troops of the Waffen SS responsible in the field; with any particular Army?

A To the Army officer, to the commanding general, or the commander of the army.

Q Wasn't there an intermediate person between the

H0919-0017

units and the commanding General of the Army?

A No. Not to my knowledge.

Q Are you familiar with the set-up of the Waffen SS in the field working with the Wehrmacht?

A Yes.

Q Isn't there an independent SS commander who is in charge of all the SS troops when the SS are attached to an army in the field?

A No, not to my knowledge.

Q Is each SS unit separately attached to each one of the organizations of the Wehrmacht?

A That depends on the area. In this area they were subordinate. I should like to add something, to avoid misunderstanding. Just like units of the Army, units of the Waffen SS were temporarily assigned to combat partisans.

DR. KOESSL: I will have this question cleared up by a special witness.

CAPTAIN TUBRIDY: Let us adjourn for 10 minutes.

(A recess was taken).

H0919-0018

Q Mr Witness, what were the chain of commands in the armed SS?

A The Fuehrer was the armed chain of command, and at home the orders came from Himmler through the SS Main Leadership Office to replacement units. Himmler besides had couriers who reported to him the deeds and the casualties of the SS units in the field.

LT. COLONEL BROOKHART: Casualties and what else?

THE WITNESS: Deeds.

BY DR. KOESSL:

Q Your answers will now be in reference to a speech of Himmler in Posen. Here I am referring to Document PS 1919, English translation, page 8. What I mention will be short.

CAPTAIN TUBRIDY: Just a minute, please, MR. KOESSL.

COLONEL GRIFFITH JONES: If we can get a definite start of what is to be read by identifying the page.

CAPTAIN TUBRIDY: MR KOESSL, Are you making reference to some prior document which has already been introduced as a transcript?

COLONEL GRIFFITH JONES: If I may make a suggestion, we may have the English copy read and have it for the record.

CAPTAIN TUBRIDY: Very well. MR KOESSL, Will you hold it for just a minute.

COLONEL GRIFFITH JONES: You may show it on page 8.

BY DR. KOESSL:

Q (Reading from document)"It would be an evil day if the SS and the Police fell out. It would be an evil day if the Main Offices of performing their tasks well, meaningly but mistakenly made themselves independant by each having a downward chain of command. I really think that the day of my

H0919-0019

overthrow would be the end of the SS. It must be, and so come about, that this SS organization with all its branches - or the General SS, which is the common basis of all of them,the Waffen SS, the regular uniformed police (Ordnungspolizei),the SIPO (with the whole economic administration, schooling, idealogical training, the whole question of kindred) is even under the tenth Reichsfuehrer SS, one bloc, one body, one organization." Is that quotation right?

A This speech of Himmler's was an attack upon the Waffen SS. He had threatened in 1940,and again in later years, that the Waffen SS will be trained out of the SS and put into the army.

Q Did the Higher SS and the Police officials have any right, or any power or order over the SS units at home?

A TheHigher SS and the Police officials were generals of the police, and could only come back to the SS units in case of emergencies. For instance, if they had bombings, fires, or floods.

Q Did they have any power of ordering on the front?

A On the front they did not have any power, or any order (authority) over the units of the Waffen SS; unless the units of the Waffen SS were put under them just like units of the army to combat partisans.

Q Did the chief of the anti-Partisan units have any order, or could he give orders to the Waffen SS?

A The chief of the anti-Partisan units first was a general of the police, and only later on became also a general of the Waffen SS. He was made general of the SS only when beside troops of the regular army; and also some Waffen SS units were put under his command temporarily.

COLONEL GRIFFITH JONES: May we have his name?

THE WITNESS: The chief was General Von Den Bach Zelowski, and this general was a witness before the High Court.

H0919 - 0020

BY DR. KOESSL:

Q What was the reason for setting up the office of the Chief of the anti-Partisan units?

A It was Himmler's idea to make a superior office to the army units in the individual places, and in the individual areas, for the purpose of bringing out and making his own position more important.

LT. COLONEL BROCKHART: Again we are wandering far afield. Where is it to be ended.

CAPTAIN TUBRIDY: Can you explain? MR KOESSL.

DR. KOESSL: The reason is-it was declared by the Prosecution that the Waffen SS had taken part in the anti-Partisan activities, and had committed crimes against humanity.

LT. COLONEL BROCKHART: May we have the questions as pertains to their participation then.

CAPTAIN TUBRIDY: Yes.

DR. KOESSL: And on account of the actual stories about the activities of the SS in specific places according to different witnesses, and then because this witness was ~~at~~ at home.

BY DR. KOESSL:

Q Was the Battalion Dirlewanger a unit of the SS?

A The Battalion Dirlewanger consisted of troops which were not convicted of dishonesty, but a breach of honor activity, and, therefore, could not be considered a part of the Waffen SS. They were not organized by the SS Main Leadership Offices. It was only the last year they were made into an army rehabilitation unit of troops which were not considered suitable sofar as their honor was concerned for the army.

CAPTAIN TUBRIDY: The question was, was this battalion a part of the SS. Can not that be answered, yes or no?

H0919 – 0021

THE WITNESS: It can be answered with a "no" because no SS men were in it.

BY DR. KOESSL:

Q From whom did Dirlewanger get his orders?

A The battalion received its orders either from the SS Main Office, or from the Higher Police and SS officials, under whose command they were placed temporarily.

Q What were the realtions there between the State Security Office, and the SS Main Leadership Office?

LT. COLONEL BROCKHART: I object upon the grounds it is accummulative. The evidence has already been given by other witness.

DR. KOESSL: I want to know how many members of the Waffen SS were under the State or Reichs Security Office, and working for it.

CAPTAIN TUBRIDY: Then why don't you ask that question Mr Koessl?

BY DR. KOESSL:

Q Answer that.

A At the beginning of the war against Russia, the Reichs Main Security Office received three companies, that is, one from each army group as guard units. These companies later on were pulled back. Otherwise, the only ones of the Reichs Security Main Office were only the individuals which were trained, or which were being trained there. These men were included in the company of the Reichs Main Security Office. That had to be done because nobody according to an order could be discharged from the Waffen SS since 1940, and at the same time this replaced the important necessity of classification which existed in the German army. These men received in this way were not required, or did not have to do any duties in the army by having this classification.

H0919-0022

Q Was the Waffen SS connected with the troops used by the units of the Reichs Main Security Office, and the SD?

CAPTAIN TUBRIDY: What is that again?

BY DR. KOESSL:

Q Was the Waffen SS connected with the troops- - the operational troops used by the Reichs Main Security Office, and the SD - or the Einsatztruppen, which is in the Security service? Was the SS taking part in these units, or any part of these units?

LT. COLONEL BROOKHART: The name is important there. Was that the Einsatzgruppen?

THE WITNESS: I heard the word "Einsatzgruppen" in prison for operational groups of the Reichs Security Office, and the Security service. I heard that word for the first time here in prison. Therefore, I do not know anything about the connections, or use of the Waffen SS with these units.

BY DR. KOESSL:

Q The Prosecution said that the Waffen SS took part in, or perpetrated executions in the Protectorate in 1941. What do you know about that?

A Obergruppenfuehrer Heydrich pronounced martial law in the Protectorate, and as Reichs Protector established court martials; for the executions or sentences replacement units of the Waffen SS were used without the SS Main Leadership Office so being informed. Knowledge of these replacement units got back to me by telephone, and I complained about this with Himmler. Himmler wanted a report concerning this phase. Thereupon the report was given to Himmler. In the future, thereafter, things like that did not occur any more.

H0919 - 0023

COLONEL GRIFFITH JONES: Could we have the date of that?

THE WITNESS: 1941. More than that I don't know.

DRL KOESSL: The happening as mentioned is in the Document No. USRR 60, and was dated 8 February; German translation page 4142. May I continue?

CAPTAIN TUBRIDY: Yes.

BY DR. KOESSL:

Q You were the representative of Himmler as Commander of the Replacement Army?

A Yes.

Q Was it the name of Himmler as Chief of Replacement Army; was the Replacement Army placed under Himmler?

A No, it was only connected with the person of Himmler, and my own person.

Q As a continuous representative of the Chief of the Replacement Army, was the prisoner of war system under your command also?

A No. The "PW" or prisoner of war office was under the High Command, and when it was given to Himmler, he in turn handed it over to Obergruppenfuehrer Berger.

Q Did the office of Obergruppenfuehrer Berger have anything to do with the prisoner of war administration?

A No, the office of Obergruppenfuehrer Berger did not have anything to do with the "PW" administration. It was only the person of Berger himself.

Q Did the SS have any advantages, before or after, with its orders, or had greater command on the production in the concentration camps?

A There must be a mistake somewhere. The Waffen SS never did order

H0919 - 0024

and never received any of the production of these concentration camps. Something else, however, was understood between the High Command, and Himmler . Three per cent of the work that was done in the armament industries,which was done by prisoners from these camps, was turned over to the Economic and Administrative Offices. This three per cent at this time was figured out into man-hours of work,and then again we figured into the hours of work that were needed upon the weapons, or upon the rifles. Before that the High Command of the Army delivered weapons or rifles to the SS. That was only done for about three months. After that it was impossible to do it any more. The delivered rifles and machine guns were figured as equipment for the SS Divisions.

Q Did the Waffen SS have anything to do with the biological experiments in the concentration camps?

A Only at this time have I heard of these biological experiments on human beings,and I did not know anything about them before. The Medical Department of the SS, however, did not have anything to do with it.

Q Did the SS Main Leadership Office ever hear of the fact that millions of Jews were killed in the executions in the extermination camps?

A I do not know anything about these extermination camps,and it was only here in prison that I heard about it, and saw them in the movies. I remember, although I do not remember exactly what year, that I asked Himmler at the time when the Jews were deported from Berlin, what was happening here. Himmler said,"I do not have any headaches about it, that the Jews would be put into labor camps and would work there." No other members of the Waffen SS ever talked to me about these extermination camps.

H0919 - 0025

Q Did ~~did~~ you hear of any other inhuman treatments that were happening in the concentration camps?

A I never visited any concentration camps, but I had a large workshop near the concentration camp of Oranienberg, in which prisoners from the camps were working. I only know that these prisoners liked to work for us, and that they never complained about treatment in the camps.

Q Did you know as Chief of the SS Leadership Offices, that the fight against the Partisans was only a cover for the destruction and killing of the Jews, and the local population ?

A I did not hear anything about. I just know that such units did exist.

Q Did you as Chief of the SS Main Leadership Office ever give, or hear of any orders which were inhumane, and concerning about any inhumanity during combat, or during ~~war~~ the war?

A Just the opposite is the case. I gave orders that the training of young leaders should include teaching about the Geneva Convention, and of the International rights, as ~~ik~~ I think really should be done with young and ready leaders.

Q Was the Waffen SS connected with, or did it take part in the evacuation program in the East?

A The Waffen SS did not have anything to do with the evacuation program.

Q Did you as Chief of the SS Main Leadership Office ever hear about the fact that in the East, that by tactical units of Security Police and Security Service 10,000 people were killed?

LT. COLONEL BROCKHART: I object to the witness answering, he said he does not know.

H0919 - 0026

CAPTAIN TUBRIDY: Let him say. Just a minute, when the witness in answering does not know, will you please instruct him to say he does not know without explaining why he does not know. If the question can be answered, yes or no, we prefer he answer it yes or no.

BY DR. KOESSL:

Q How did it come by the name of "SS Police Regiments." Were these regiments of the Waffen SS?

A No, it was not a regiment of the Waffen SS. It was an honor given to them by Himmler.

Q Did these regiments actually belong to the SS?

A No, these regiments were regiments of the Border Police.

Q As to the personnel staff of the Reichsfuehrer SS, did that staff take part or work on the orders for the Waffen SS?

A No.

Q Was the Leadership Offices of the Reichsfuehrer SS connected constantly with the personnel staff of the Reichsfuehrer SS?

A No, that is not the case.

DR. KOESSL: I am now finished with the questioning of the witness.

CAPTAIN TUBRIDY: Any cross examination?

COLONEL GRIFFITH JONES: I want to ask a few questions about the position of the Waffen SS troops in the field.

BY COLONEL GRIFFITH JONES:

Q Of the SS Standarte, how many men were there in that organization?

A I don't know the exact number. There were about 3,000 men, and it was part of the regular army unit.

Q The SS Standarte, were they all commanded by SS officers?

H0919-0027

A During peace,yes,but during the war around two divisions and also army officers were included.

Q I asked about the officers who commanded the Standarte, the commanding officers of the Standarte.

A That was the Standarte leader colonel.

Q Try to make him answer my question, please. Were they SS officers?

A Yes.

Q Then I take it that a great majority of the officers serving in each SS Standarte were SS officers?

A Yes.

Q And were a few Wehrmacht officers there only because of the difficulty of re-enforcements during the fighting?

A No. The Wehrmacht Army officers went over into the SS during the war,and other General Staff officers were commanded to go over to the SS in addition, as doctors, veterinarians and physicians.

Q Did that take place early due to the difficulty of re-enforcing units with
~~of~~ the SS officers,that they were missing, the SS officers actually were missing? I still want to get an actual answer. Was the employment of the Wehrmacht officers with the SS during the war due only to the difficulty of re-enforcing SS units with SS units. I want a yes or no answer?

A Yes, it was held because of that.

Q The SS officers were trained,were they not, in SS schools and training establishments ?

A Yes, SS officers schools.

Q And no other Wehrmacht officers were trained in those schools?

A No, only officers of the SS,and only officers of the Wehrmacht at

H0919-0028

times visited those schools.

Q Was the SS main headquarters responsible for the promotion of officers in the SS units, or did they come under the ordinary Wehrmacht organization?

A They came from Himmler.

Q Were the appointments of officers to the command, and to the staff made by Himmler, or by the normal army organization?

A From Himmler.

Q Now you have told us that the SS units served in the field under the command of Wehrmacht general?

A Yes.

Q Who detailed the particular units that were to serve in the particular army or corps?

A The General Staff ordered that.

Q Did Himmler have any control over the allotment of SS officers to the general commands?

A No, that was the duty or job of the Wehrmacht.

Q At the beginning of the war when the armies were being grouped, was it Himmler who originally allotted the SS units to the armies concerned?

A No, that came from the Fuehrer's Headquarters.

Q Of the Einsatzgruppen, what headquarters detailed men that were to make up the Einsatz groups?

A I did not hear about these Einsatz groups before. I just heard about them here.

Q Are you really saying as Chief of the main Waffen SS Offices, you did not know that you had Waffen SS men serving with units known as Einsatzgruppen, or Einsatz commanders?

H0919-0029

A Yes, I want to say that.

Q Very well. Did you know that you had SS units detailed to fight Partisans in the Eastern territories?

A Yes, I heard about that.

Q Were those units detailed from your office, or from other SS offices?

A No, it was decided by the headquarters whether they were to work, or did duty as anti-Partisan units, or on the front.

Q By that I imagine you mean that the army headquarters could serve?

A Yes.

Q Did I understand you to say that Von Den Bach Zelewski was not an SS officer until he was appointed Chief of the anti-Partisan unit?

A He was made a General of the Waffen SS a long time after he had taken over the anti-Partisan bureau,or the anti-Partisan office, and he formerly was General of the Police.

Q Had he been before that in the Allgemeine SS?

A Yes.

Q At what date would you say that he became Chief of the anti-Partisan unit?

A I can not give you the date. However,already as Higher SS and Police officials, we had at the beginning of the war anti-Partisan fights in the East.

Q But do you say that he did not become a Waffen SS General until long after he had been appointed Chief of the anti-Partisan unit?

A As far as I remember that was the case. I can not say exactly.

Q Now let me tell you what he himself said. He said, and I quote from page 2,220 of the transcript:"I was promoted on 9 November 1941, Obergruppenfuehrer and General of the Waffen SS." Would you agree with him that was

H0919-0030

probably the correct date?

A I think that he was appointed later on. However, I can not say for sure. I believe that he formerly was general of the police.

Q That is what he said. We won't argue about that. Then he goes on to say, and I quote on page 2,223: "Otherwise I was there until the end of 1942 when I was appointed chief of the anti-Partisan units." Will you now agree that date is the correct date of his appointment?

A That I can not say.

Q The only reason I called your attention to that matter is because I wanted you to understand it. You had given us evidence as to certain facts, and, yet, upon that one fact you are completely incorrect. You realize that, do you?

A I don't see anything wrong. I just said and I told the Court what I tell you, the way I know it.

Q Now you go on to say that the Totenkoptverbaende had nothing to do with the Waffen SS, is that correct?

A No, I did not say that. I must have been misunderstood.

Q May I take it that the Totenkoptverbaende was not a part of the organization of the Waffen SS?

A Yes, they came during the war.

Q The Waffen SS was only in existence during the war, was it not, and got its name during the war?

A Yes.

Q And the Totenkoptverbaende was an intregal part or department in that organization?

A Yes, during the war.

Q I just want to ask one or two questions about your name. Would you

H0919-0031

first sign your name on a piece of paper (Whereupon the witness writes his name on a paper). Did I understand you to say that you asked Himmler what was going to happen to the Jews that were being taken out of Berlin?

A Yes.

Q Were you worried about what was going to happen to them?

A No. However, it was rather interesting that all of a sudden that these people were taken from Berlin.

Q So you only asked Himmler what was going to happen to them, because it was interesting, is that it?

A Yes,that interested me very much. I proved that later on sofar as the Hungarian Jews were concerned.

Q And Himmler answered,"You need have no headaches."?

A Yes, Himmler said that,and he also said that the Jews would be put into large work camps, and would work there.

Q Just one or two more questions I want to ask on that. If the purpose of your question was purely of interest, why should Himmler have said,"You need have no headaches." Will you explain that?

A I just want to say that even it was known in the highest circles of the SS that I opposed the position of Himmler to the number of incidents, and that he did not want me as a political person, sofar as politics were concerned.

Q My second question is this, were you quite happy that the Jews should be deported, and put into labor camps, and turned into slaves to work for Germany. Were you quite contented with Himmler's answer about that?

A No, I know Himmler did not say "slaves," but he said that they should be there under their own ruling.

H0919-0032

Q But did you see nothing wrong yourself in taking the Jews away from their homes, and putting them into labor camps?

A I did not think it too well since before the war they had given the Jews the chance and the OK to leave Germany. It was my opinion that if they did not want the change, it would be better to make them immigrate into foreign countries.

Q I am asking you, did you see anything wrong in taking away the Jews from their homes, and putting them into labor camps? Was that quite consistent with your conscience?

A No, my conscience was actually against it, but I had nothing to do with it. I officially could not do anything since I as an official did not have anything to do with it.

Q Was that form of procedure consistent with the general teaching that the SS gave their officers, of that kind of treatment to the Jews? Was that in accordance with the teaching of the SS to their officers?

A No. However, I would like to add that Himmler said that it would be impossible to have Jews in a town like Berlin with such a circle of officers, and with Jewish espoinage leaders.

Q All right, we will leave that. Will you show him (the witness) this, and tell whether this is your signature?

A Yes, that is my signature --

Q Just read it, will you?

A (continuing) -- and that is the letter I referred to before.

CAPTAIN TUBRIDY: May we have, for the record, what it is.

THE WITNESS: That is the letter I referred to before concerning my speech, or talk to Himmler concerning the martial law.

BY COLONEL GRIFFITH JONES:

H0919-0033

Q Now we will just see what you refer to. It is PS-1972 US 471 (showing the witness the document) reading as follows in part: " I deliver the following report regarding the commitment of the Waffen SS in the Protectorate Bohemia and Moravia during the civilian state of emergency:" It is written on 14 October 1941. "In the mutual changes, all Battalions of the Waffen SS in the Protectorate Bohemia and Moravia will be brought forth for shootings,and relatively for the supervision at hangings. Up until now there occurred in Prague 99 shootings, and 21 hangings; in Brueen, 54 shootings and 17 hangings, a total of 191 executions, including 16 Jews. A complete report regarding other measures and on the conduct of the officers, non-coms and men will be made following the termination of the civilian state of emergency."

Were you in the habit of reporting to the Reichsfuehrer the shootings and hangings that the SS troops carried out: Was that part of your job?

A No, this report only occurred because I complained to the Reichsfuehrer of SS that Heydrich had used the Waffen SS for the executions, and I had to prove this. They almost produced a mutiny with the units.

Q You say that you handed the activities of Heydrich in the Protectorate,but nothing of the doings of the Einsatzkommando and the anti-Partisan SS units of the Eastern territory?

A These units were replacement units that were under me, and reported to me immediately, and complained to me.

COLONEL GRIFFITH JONES: Very well, that is all.

CAPTAIN TUBRIDY: Colonel Smirnov, do you wish to ask any questions?

COLONEL SMIRNOV: No, I have none.

LT. CONONEL BROCKHART: I have a few.

H0919-0034

CROSS EXAMINATION

BY LT. COL. BROOKHART:

Q What was the relationship of the rank of commander between yourself and General Berger?

A He had exactly the same rank as I, Chief of SS Main Office, and I was neither under him, nor was he under me.

Q Had General Berger ever referred to you in his problems of recruiting for the SS?

A Yes, that was discussed between the replacement office and my office, and he also talked to me about it.

Q What did he ever tell you about his conferences with Himmler growing out of the fact that the SS had such a reputation for being ruthless killers, so that the recruiting program became very difficult?

A No, he never said anthing about it to me --

Q Do you have any knowledge --

A (continuing) -- but, however, he should have told me that. Berger however said something else. Maybe it was a mistake, due to the fact that the Waffen SS had such a large number of casualties that the recruiting was getting more difficult; that we settled.

Q Did Berger ever say anything about his having written Himmler under a secret classification on this problem?

A No. The relation between Berger and myself was not in such a way that he told me anything personally.

Q Referring now to another matter. How often did you visit Oranienberg?

A I never visited the concentration camp, but my workshop was there.

Q How often?

A About five or six times, maybe.

H0919-0035

Q Was it known to you by reason of what you saw,and what you heard, and by what you smelled, that there were executions going on and extermination by burning of human beings going on in the concentration camps?

A No. I never went into the concentration camp.

Q That is not my question. Shall I repeat?

A Yes.

Q Was it known to you when you visited your workshop in Oranienberg,that by what you saw,and what you heard,and what you smalled, that there were exterminations and burning of human beings in Oranienberg camp?

A No, that was not possible.

Q Don't you know that the odor from the burning of cadavers at Oranienberg was so well known that even the children on the streets of that town talked about it?

A That was never told to me, otherwise, I would have known of it.

Q Another matter. You say that the Medical Department of the SS had nothing to do with experiments on human beings?

A Sofar as I remember, no.

Q You also say that the Waffen SS received nothing in the way of protection from conentration camps industries, is that right?

A From the products of the industries. Only the SS received more or less a certain percentage of the number of products by way of the Economic Administration.

Q What do you know about this. In the processing in the industry at Auschwitz, ~~from~~ by the extermination of Jews there was the by-product from the extraction of gold from the teeth of the victims, and that regular shipments of the gold bars made from these extracted teeth were sent

H0919 - 0036

monthly to the Medical Department of the SS?

A I don't know anything about that, because if I would have heard anything about it I would have drawn in my own mind the consequences from it.

LT. COLONEL BROOKHART: That is all.

CROSS EXAMINATION

BY M. MONNERAY:

Q You said that the Waffen SS had no advantage to take anything out from the concentration camp.

A (No answer)

Q You said that the Waffen SS had no advantage to take anything out of the concentration camp?

A No, sofar as my office was concerned, we got a percentage of the work hours that was done by the men, by the prisoners in these concentration camps, and, I want also to add -- I want to say that that was what was told me. On this question of the gold bars that were sent to the Medical Department of the SS, that could not be true, and that the only person that could have received them would be the Reichsphysician of the SS, or the Reichsdokter of the SS. The Reichsdoktar of the SS was directly under the Reichsfuehrer of SS.

Q The SS Reichsstandarte, was it a part of the Waffen SS?

A Yes.

Q Do you know, or have you any knowledge of this speech made by Himmler, or the address given to the offices of the SS, the Reichsstandarte, by Himmler on the day at Metz?

A Yes, I heard of that speech which created quite a bit of bad blood, because it stated that each was forced to get a little house. Later on

H0919 - 0037

that was the money that was to be paid from the money that was ~~xxxxxxxxxx~~ from the products that were produced in the concentration camps. They said that they would not accept any gifts through the work of others, because in that way they would not become a dependent.

Q Do you mean by that, dependent from the workers?

A What do you mean by that?

Q What do you mean by dependent - from the relationship of dependents?

A That they would not be a dependent. That Himmler, he did not want any gifts.

M. MONNERAY: That is all.

CAPTAIN TUBRIDY: Do you have any question, Mr Koessl.

DR. KOESSL: Yes, I have two questions.

CAPTAIN TUBRIDY: How long will they take.

DR. KOESSL: They are very short questions.

CAPTAIN TUBRIDY: How long, ~~is short~~, how many minutes?

DR. KOESSL: Mostly ten minutes.

CAPTAIN TUBRIDY: All right. I think we had better adjourn and you may hold them until after lunch, say, 1410 hours.

(A recess was taken until 1410 hours)

H0919-0038

AFTERNOON SESSION

(The hearing reconvened at 1410 hours , 23 May 1946)

HANS JUETTNER - Resumed

CROSS EXAMINATION - Continued.

BY M. MONNERAY:

I should like to finish cross examination of the witness, and will read an excerpt from the Document 1918 PS. I want to read the speech of Himmler concerning treatment of inferior people, it is about the guarding of the inferior people:

"This activity is necessary, as I said, 1, to eliminate those negative people from the German people, 2, to exploit them once more for the great folk community by having them break stones and bake bricks so that the Fuehrer can again erect his grand buildings, and 3, to in turn invest the money, earned soberly this way, in houses, in ground, in settlements so that our men can have houses in which to raise large families and lots of children."

Q Himmler was made Chief of the Wassen SS from what time on?

A From the beginning.

Q And the idealogy of Himmler concerning the inferior beings which are mentioned was quite well known to people joining the Waffen SS, wasn't that so.

COLONEL NEAVE: I don't think he has quite understood the question. Could you re-translate that?

A I can't answer that. I don't know whether the individual man knew of it.

BY M. MONNERAY:

Q But during the years of training of new members joining

H0919-0039

the Waffen SS and the SS, this idolatry about inferior beings has been taught, isn't that so?

A There was no time to do that after the war.

Q And before the war?

A During the war our training was limited to history and Adolf Hitler's Mein Kampf.

Q But before the war this teaching and training of ~~idolatry~~ ideology had been carried through, hadn't it?

A As far as it touched the national socialist idealogy, and, of course it was touched also in the course of instructions . A distinction must be made between Himmler as Reich Fuehrer of the SS and Himmler as Chief of the German Police.

Q And people joining the SS before the war at least knew that Himmler, according to idealogy, that those inferior beings had to be put aside or under protection in special camps?

A The whole German people knew that their social government had to be safeguarded in concentration camps.

Q Is it right that the concentration camps were under the administration of the SS and especially Himmler. I am more particularly interested in this end - the organization of the camps.

DR. KOESSL: I want to say something about the point of his mentioning inferior beings.

COLONEL NEAVE: Are you making an objection to the French Prosecutor's question or what?

DR. KOESSL: I want to object to the question because the

H0919-0040

military government itself organized in a large part the concentration camps and people were put there for reasons of crimes.

COLONEL NEAVE: I can't accept that. You must raise that in your re-examination. Go on, please.

BY M. MONNERAY:

Q So it is right that matters of the concentration camps were under the administration of the SS?

A No, that is not correct.

M. MONNERAY: That is all.

REDIRECT EXAMINATION

BY DR. KOESSL:

Q When were the TOTENKOPF Regiments 5 to 18 placed under Heissmayer?

A In 1939 and 1940, I don't know exactly. When they were placed under the main leadership office a large part of these Totemkopf formations were dissolved.

Q When these SS formations were under Heissmayer did the Waffen SS already exist?

A Yes

Q Was Heissmayer with the Totemkopf formations a part of the Waffen SS?

A No.

Q Were there two kinds of Totemkopf regiments?

A The Totemkopf divisions and the replacement units were immediately Waffen SS. The Totemkopf formations under Heissmayer became part of the Waffen SS later.

H0919 - 0041

Q When the Totemkopf regiments, 5 to 8, existed under Heissmayer they were not yet a part of the Waffen SS?

A No, otherwise they would not have been under Heissmayer.

Q You said that the Waffen SS was credited for the working hours of the concentration camps?

A Yes.

Q What was the advantage for the Waffen SS in this?

A The divisions could be equipped more quickly to this delivery of weapons.

Q Would the Waffen SS have received the same weapons if it had not been credited with working hours?

A Yes

Q Did the Wehrmacht receive weapons in the same way?

A No, that was an agreement between Himmler and the High Command of the Wehrmacht.

Q As Chief of the SS main leadership office did you learn where the troop replacements and medical matters came from?

A They were received from the office of the Reich doctor of the SS or pharmaceutical people.

Q Did this Reich doctor of the SS have anything to do with the Waffen SS?

A He could give technical instructions about medical matters.

Q Do you know in what form the gold was delivered?

A I know nothing about the gold.

Q How high were the losses of the Waffen SS?

A By estimate, 250,000.

H0919-0042

Q Were these losses at certain times at least higher in per-centage than those of the Wehrmacht?

A They were higher in the French campaign in the Totenkopf Division because those Totenkopf Divisions had not been trained enough before it was sent into action.

Q Did you talk with Obergruppenfuehrer Berger about recruitments for losses that they sustained?

A No.

COLONEL NEAVE: Has AMTSGRUPPE W been discussed earlier today. Just for my guidance as I wasn't here this morning, who was Obergruppenfuehrer Berger?

A The Prosecution said that Berger obstructed recruitment. It was hard to recruit for the Waffen SS because it was such a bloody formation.

BY DR. KOESSL:

Q Do you know whether the population believed that the Waffen SS had losses greater than those of the Wehrmacht?

A In 1940 the news was spread that we had very great losses.

COLONEL NEAVE: Does that finish with your witness, Dr. Koessl?

DR. KOESSL: That is all the questions I had to ask him.

(THE COMMISSION ADJOURNED AT 1430 HOURS)

Com
Take 3, page 6
Cook
1410 - 1510
23 May 1946

H0919 - 0043

The foregoing is a true and correct transcript of the testimony of HANS JUETTNER, taken on 23 May 1946.

H B Darrow
Reporter (pp 1-16)

Charles J Gallagher
Reporter (pp 17-36)

Rose W Cook
Reporter (pp 37-42)

CERTIFIED TO:

Joseph Tubridy
Commissioner

Commissioner

H0919-0044

OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT OF TESTIMONY FOR THE DEFENSE OF ORGANIZATIONS, TAKEN BEFORE A COMMISSION APPOINTED BY THE INTERNATIONAL MILITARY TRIBUNAL PURSUANT TO PARAGRAPH 4 OF THE ORDER OF THE TRIBUNAL DATED 13 MARCH 1946.

THURSDAY, 23 MAY 1946

COMMISSIONERS:

Captain Joseph Tubridy
Mr. I. D. McIlwraith

THE SS

(The Commission convened at 1000 hours).

HANS JUETTNER, a witness, took the stand and testified as follows:

BY CAPTAIN TUBRIDY:

Q Will you ask the witness to raise his right hand and repeat after me:

I swear by God, the Almight and Omniscient, that I will speak the pure truth and will withhold and add nothing.

(The witness repeated the oath).

CAPTAIN TUBRIDY: Will you please be seated.

DR. KOESSL: Mr. Chairman, I ask permission to take over the questioning of the witness.

CAPTAIN TUBRIDY: Yes, you may proceed.

DIRECT EXAMINATION

BY DR. KOESSL:

Q What was the reason for your employment as chief of the command office of the Waffen SS and of the SS main leadership offi

A At the beginning of war I was staff officer for the SS Fuehrungshauptant. Before the war the Inspector, Colonel General Hauser, went into combat. I was his representative, this inspec his deputy. As such, I had to carry on negotiations with the Wehrmacht. For that reason, Himmler ordered that I was to remain behind and that I was to take over the inspector of the SS Verfuegstruppe.

As Inspector of the SS Verfuegunstruppe I set up the first

H0919-0045

division of the SS Verfuegunstruppe I set up the first division of the SS Verfuegungstruppe in material and personnel.

CAPTAIN TUBRIDY: What was the date that he engaged in this position?

THE INTERPRETER: He took over the position on the 1st of September 1939.

THE WITNESS: After this division had been set up the Inspector of the SS Verfuegungstruppe was changed to the Command Office of the SS Verfuegunstruppe. This Command Office belonged to the SS main office.

I emphasize that a command office was created without a command. As a result of difficulties with the Chief of the SS main office the Command Office of the SS Verfuegungstruppe was taken out and on Himmler's orders the SS main leadership office was set up.

This high-sounding name was actually wrong. This office did not lead direct but all the tasks for training, training, equipment and material replacements for the replacement units, were dealt with in this office. No chief was appointed for the main leadership office at that time. As Chief of the Command Office of the SS Verfugungstruppe I became Chief of Staff of the main leadershi office. I worked in that capacity until January 1943.

In January 1943 I was appointed Chief of the main leadership office. I held this position until shortly before the Armistice; I don't know the date exactly any more. On the 5th or 6th of May 1945 Himmler removed me from my position and I was released from the SS.

BY CAPTAIN TRUBRIDY:

Q So far you have only spoken of the Verfuegungstruppe. What about the term Waffen SS?

A In a public speech Adolf Hitler when he mentioned the field troops in battle, he mentioned the armed units of the SS and invented the term Waffen SS. That was in 1940. Clarification of this term is Main Leader. The Waffen SS meant the SS Verfue-

H0919 – 0046

gungstruppe and, therefore, th units of the Totenkopfverbeaude, Death Head formations, were tr sferred into the Waffen SS. The Totenkopfverbeaude division set up by the Totenkopf formations about in the fall of 1940 was transferred to the labor field of the main leadership office. The replacement units of this division.--

COLONEL GRIFFITH JONES: Replacement units of

H0919 -0047

this regiment?

THE WITNESS: Replacement units of the Totenkopf division.

COLONEL GRIFFITH JONES: Yes.

THE WITNESS: And the Totenkopf standard bearers 5 to 18 were placed under the main leadership office. The guards of the concentration camps were also to be transferred. This was not done in effect because the Chief of the SS main office, Heissmayer(?), was made Inspector General of the SS Totenkopf formation. To place this Obergruppenfuehrer under me wasn't possible for official reasons. I had no influence on these units for this reason and I requested the dissolution of the Totenkopf standard bearer and I requested that the buard battalions be made independent. These guard battalions were later separated and were placed under SS General Pohl,p-o-h-l.

Obergruppen Pohl was Chief of the economic and leadership main office, but after Obergruppen and General Eckel (?) had left, the concentration camps were under his orders. As a result, under his orders the concentration camps and the guard battalions were coordinated and placed under his command.

Since the question of service in the guard battalions was not recognized as defense service or war service, the High Command of the Wehmacht, Field Marshal Keitel asked Hitler for a decision. The decision of Adolf Hitler was transmitted by Field Marshal Keitel. It was that service in these guard battalions would not be recognized as war service and defense service by him. Only after the end of the war he would make a decision on this question.

Over-stepping his authority, Himmler thereupon made these guard battalions units of the Waffen SS; and in the Army service regulations these units were called Waffen SS units. The members of these battalions thus not only became Waffen SS but were distinguished from the regular troops of the Waffen SS, which I call the regular Waffen SS. The command posts of the concentration camps were not taken into the Waffen SS at that time. They contained the basic personnel of the concentration camps. Now, in captivity, I learn that the Inspector or Commander of the concentration camps without our knowledge temporarily assigned the men of the command post guard battalions in order to make them members of the Waffen SS.

H0919-0048

COLONEL GRIFFITH JONES: What was that?

THE INTERPRETER: Temporarily assigned the men of the command post to the guard battalions in order to make them members of the Waffen SS.

THE WITNESS: In my personal opinion, this was illegal. It was kept secret from us, the Waffen SS.

COLONEL GRIFFITH JONES: May I just say this: The answer to this question has now taken nearly half an hour. This I understood yesterday is the first of 36 questions. It looks, therefore, as if this witness is going to take at least 12 hours to complete his evidence; and judging by what we have heard up to now, not one single word has been relevant.

DR. KOESSL: The witness has answered two other questions which I will not ask.

CAPTAIN TUBRIDY: That isn't the real point, Dr. Koessl. The point is we have taken now about half an hour in preliminary questions which could be stricken from the record, so far as the issues which are supposed to be before this Commission are concerned. And there has not been any real substantial contribution by this witness to any of the ultimate things which we want to hear.

DR. KOESSL: It is very important to establish what the relationship of the concentration camps guards was to the Waffen SS.

CAPTAIN TUBRIDY: I agree with you if you would pursue that line of questioning.

DR. KOESSL: Shall I continue with the examination of this witness?

CAPTAIN TUBRIDY: Yes, but along the suggested lines.

BY DR. KOESSL:

Q Into which main office was the command of the

H0919-0049

Inspector of the Deaths Head Formations and the Inspector of the concentration camps? That is, the offices of Eckel. (?) The office of SS Gruppenfuehrer activity.

A These offices were the SS main office under Obergruppenfuehrer Heissmayer. (?)

Q What was the difference between the SS main office and the SS main leadership office?

A The main leadership office worked on military affairs of the Waffen SS, and the command office of the general SS was attached to that office.

CAPTAIN TUBRIDY: Will you translate that question?

THE WITNESS: During this war this had no significance. It was to become important only after the war.

COLONEL BROOKHART: I must object to further questions along this line on the ground of the disagreement in comparison with the criminal charts of the Prosecution.

DR. KOESSL: I am questioning this witness from the point of view of the Supreme Command of the SS.

COLONEL BROOKHART: My objection still stands.

CAPTAIN TUBRIDY: Mr. Koessl, we devoted a whole morning to listening to the organizational set-up of the SS. A chart was introduced and it disagreed with the chart which was produced by the Prosecution; and we would like to confine the evidence which is to be presented now to new matter not connected with the organizational set-up of the SS.

DR. KOESSL: I should like to establish where the inspectors of the Totenkopf formations and of the concentration camps fitted into the organization.

CAPTAIN TUBRIDY: Very well, but I wish we could do it in just about two questions.

DR. KOESSL: I should like the witness to explain briefly once more how this office of Eckel (?) fitted into the organization until Pohl took over, and what the set-up was then.

CAPTAIN TUBRIDY: Can't we ask a question as to who was in charge in the SS organization of these units that you want to ask questions about?

DR. KEMPNER: Could I help the interpreter?

H0919 - 0050

CAPTAIN TUBRIDY: Yes, if you please, Dr. Kempner.

(Dr. Kempner speaks in German)

CAPTAIN TUBRIDY: And then can't you ask what his position was in the SS organization?

BY DR. KOESSL:

Q In whose hands was the command of the concentration camp guards and what was the organization of the concentration camp guards until Eckel (?) went to the front?

A Under Gluecks (?) as inspector and under Heissmayer (?) as chief of the SS main office.

Q Were these two agencies agencies of the Waffen SS.

A No.

Q Later was there any relationship to the Waffen SS?

A By Himmler's order the guard battalions were battalions of the Waffen SS.

Q Did you in your office have anything to do with concentration camps

A Neither personally nor forthe main leadership office did I ever have anything to do with concentration camps.

Q Now we will discuss the tasks of the main leadership office. You said that the name was not correct, in view of the activity of this office. What was the task of the SS main leadership office?

A The SS main leadership office had to train replacement units for the Waffen SS. It had to supply equipment; it had to train commissioned officers and officers for the troops at the front; and it had to secure personnel replacements for the troops. In addition, the division of the Waffen SS when they were drawn from the front after losses, were freshened up by material and personnel by the SS main leadership office.

Q Briefly, what was the task in the development of the SS Verfuegungs truppe before the war?

A The SS Verfuegungstruppe was created by Hitler's order in 1935 as far as I know. It was a guard unit. Elite troops.

CAPTAIN TUBRIDY: Was it guard elite troops or was it elite troops?

H0919-0051

THE INTERPRETER: He says it means elite troops.

DR. KOESSL: It is the fault of the translation that the proceedings take so long.

CAPTAIN TUBRIDY: Well, let's get along.

THE WITNESS: The SS Verfuegungstruppe were to be built up to a final strength of 20,000 men. By the outbreak of the war it had reached a strengt of about 18,000 men. It consisted of four regiments, Leibstandarte (?), Germania, Deutschland -- artillery regiment, an information battalion and an engineer battalion. The units were scattered throughout the German Reich. Their main task was to protect the Fuehrer and to provide honor guards, hono companies, for mass meetings. For that reason the men were selected according to size and racial appearance. At the outbreak of the war the SS Verfuegungstruppe was in no way trained or prepared for war. For that reason the SS Verfuegungstruppe were not enthusiastic at the outbreak of war, because we knew that a large part of us would have to fall, since the training had not been completed. We did not consider service as militarism, since militarism is an end in itself in service for a soldier; We were not encumbered with traditions. We were a young unit which was to and did appear as parade troops and was neither Wehrmacht nor police. The service was fulfillment of defense service, military duty.

BY DR. KOESSL:

Q What role did the SS Verfuegungstruppe play in the invasion of Austria, Sudetenland and the Protectorate?

A The march into Austria and the Protectorate was a complete surprise to us. The SS Verfuegungstruppe had made no preparations in mobilization. They received orders to move in, as they were under the command of the Army. I myself was on an official trip and knew nothing about this. I was called back by telegram and learned it in this way when the invasion had already taken place.

Q Was the same thing the case in all three situations?

A It was not so in the march into the Sudeten German area. There had been previous negotiations in that case and we knew that we would have to occupy the territory.

H0919-0052

Q What about the March into the Protectorate?

A That was just as much a surprise as the invasion of Austria.

Q What can you tell us about the formation of foreign units in the Waffen SS?

A There was a total of 14 foreign divisions in the Waffen SS. These divisions were set up from the individual countries. We trained and equipped them, and we provided them with German key personnel. This German Waffen SS personnel was under foreign officers, and in disciplinary respects as well as others. We did not represent that from the standpoint of mastery.

Q Were there any reasons against the establishment of these foreign units?

A I myself opposed the formation of these units, because this took arms away from our own units, and the training was very difficult because of the language barriers. As I predicted, these units almost collapsed the first time they were sent into combat and they lost almost all of their arms and equipment. Almost without exception they had to be re-equipped.

Q Why were the replacement troops of the Waffen SS not put in the replacement Army?

A Placing these troops under the command of the commander of the replacement army would have been a quite possible solution. This was not done, intentionally. In order to facilitate the establishment of the young troops if this had been done by the commander of the replacement army it would have taken a great deal of time, because the bureaucracy in the ministry offices of Germany was very great.

Q What was the relationship of the Waffen SS to the Army?

A The relationship to the Army was in general good. The main leadership office was coordinated with the commander of the replacement army, and the cooporation was excellent. In the field also in general the relationship between the Waffen SS and the Army was excellent, but there were some difficulties which arose through jealousy because our divisions as motorized divisions were differently equipped from the horse-drawn divisions of the Army; but not dif-

H0919-0053

ferent from the motorized divisions of the Army.

MR. GRIFFITH JONES: The equipment of the Waffen SS cannot possibly be relevant. It is an absolutely sheer wast of time.

THE INTERPRETER: Would you repeat that, please.

COLONEL GRIFFITH JONES: I say the equipment of different units in the SS cannot be relevant by any of the rules of evidence and is sheer wast of time.

DR. KOESSL: These statements are only made to show whi it was possible at all anywhere for there to be any tense relations.

CAPTAIN TUBRIDY: To be any what? What relations?

DR. KOESSL: Between the Army and the Waffen SS.

COLONEL GRIFFITH JONES: The relations between the Army and the Waffen SS are purely irrelevant. Unless the defense is really making an effort to cut down this evidence into some kind of reasonable limits this proceeding will go on indefinitely.

DR. KOESSL: This is not irrelevant because it tends to show that the Waffen SS was a part of the Army.

CAPTAIN TUBRIDY: Well, it seems that in trying to show the connection between the Saffen SS and the Army -- I assume that you are trying to show that the Waffen SS are really troops similar to other troops of the Wehrmacht.

DR. KOESSL: The same as the troops of the Army.

CAPTAIN TUBRIDY: But the point that has been made by Colonel Griffith Jones is that this line of questioning is hardly showing that.

DR. KOESSL: I assume that the Waffen SS cannot have been a criminal organization if its activity was the same as that of the Army.

CAPTAIN TUBRIDY: Mr. Koessl, you don't seem to appreciate the, you might say, points of view which have been expressed by the Prosecution and which have been expressed by the Commission here. Now I would suggest that if you have received a suggesti n, that you please try to pursue it, because if you don't, you know, if leads us nowhere.

DR. KOESSL: Yes, I want to follow suggestions but I have to prove that the Waffen SS was not a criminal organization.

COLONEL BROOKHART: Mr. Commissioner, may I add an objection that this

H0919-0054

witness has not been shown to be qualified to speak for the Army.

DR. KOESSL: (Speaks in German)

CAPTAIN TUBRIDY: Just a minute, Mr. Koessl. Was the Waffen SS part of the Wehrmacht?

THE WITNESS: It was, the fourth part.

BY CAPTAIN TUBRIDY:

Q. Did it have a separate commander in the field?

A. No. It was under the Army.

Q. Who was the commander of the Waffen SS organizations in the field?

A. They were under the Commander in Chief of the Army and the General Staff of the Army.

Q. When the Wehrmacht was in the field with the SS units, was that organization responsible to only one leader of the SS troops?

THE INTERPRETER: Would you repeat the question?

BY CAPTAIN TUBRIDY:

Q. When the Waffen SS were in the field, were they responsible to only one leader in that particular area?

A. No, they were incorporated into the Army corps, into Army units like any other unit of the Army.

Q. But they were responsible to one leader, weren't they, as SS units in that particular army?

A. No. They were under the Generals of the Army.

Q. But weren't they responsible to one leader, one SS leader, of that Army?

A. No.

Q. Was each SS unit under the command of some Wehrmacht commander?

A. Yes, they were incorporated into the Army, with the sole exception of replacements and clothing.

Q. Would you answer the question directly, please. When the Waffen SS was in the field, to whom were the troops of the Waffen SS responsible in the field; with any particular Army?

A. To the Army officer, to the commanding general, or the commander of the army.

Q. Wasn't there an intermediate person between the

H0919-0055

units and the commanding General of the Army?

A No. Not to my knowledge.

Q Are you familiar with the set-up of the Waffen SS in the field working with the Wehrmacht?

A Yes.

Q Isn't there an independent SS commander who is in charge of all the SS troops when the SS are attached to an army in the field?

A No, not to my knowledge.

Q Is each SS unit separately attached to each one of the organizations of the Wehrmacht?

A That depends on the area. In this area they were subordinate. I should like to add something, to avoid misunderstanding. Just like units of the Army, units of the Waffen SS were temporarily assigned to combat partisans.

DR. KOESSL: I will have this question cleared up by a special witness.

CAPTAIN TUBRIDY: Let us adjourn for 10 minutes.

(A recess was taken).

Q Mr. Witness, what were the chain of commands in the armed SS?

A The Fuehrer was the armed chain of command, and at home the orders came from Himmler through the SS Main Leadership Office to replacement units. Himmler besides had couriers who reported to him the deeds and the casualties of the SS units in the field.

LT. COLONEL BROOKHART: Casualties and what else?

THE WITNESS: Deeds.

BY DR. KOESSL:

Q Your answers will now be in reference to a speech of Himmler in Posen. Here I am referring to Document PS 1919, English translation, page 8. What I mention will be short.

CAPTAIN TUBRIDY: Just a minute, please, Mr. Koessl.

COLONEL GRIFFITH JONES: If we can get a definite start of what is to be read by identifying the page.

H0919-0056

CAPTAIN TUBRIDY: Mr. Koessl, are you making reference to some prior document which has already been introduced as a transcript?

COLONEL GRIFFITH JONES: If I may make a suggestion, we may have the English copy read and have it for the record.

CAPTAIN TUBRIDY: Very well. Mr. Koessl, will you hold it for just a minute.

COLONEL GRIFFITH JONES: You may show it on page 8.

BY DR. KOESSL:

Q (Reading from document) "It would be an evil day if the SS and the Police fell out. It would be an evil day if the Main Offices of performing their tasks well, meaningly but mistakenly made themselves independant by each having a downward chain of command. I really think that the day of my overthrow would be the end of the SS. It must be, and so come about, that this SS organization with all its branches - or the General SS, which is the common basis of all of them, the Waffen SS, the regular uniformed police (Ordnungspolizei), the SIPO (with the whole economic administration, schooling, idealogical training, the whole question of kindred) is even under the tenth Reichsfuehrer SS, one bloc, one body, one organization." Is that quotation right?

A This speech of Himmler's was an attack upon the Waffen SS. He had threatened in 1940, and again in later years, that the Waffen SS will be trained out of the SS and put into the army.

Q Did the Higher SS and the Police officials have any right, or any power or order over the SS units at home?

A The Higher SS and the Police officials were generals of the police, and could only come back to the SS units in case of emergencies. For instance, if they had bombings, fires, or floods.

Q Did they have any power of ordering on the front?

A On the front they did not have any power, or any order (authority) over the units of the Waffen SS; unless the units of the Waffen SS were put under them just like units of the army to combat partisans.

Q Did the chief of the anti-Partisan units have any order, or could he give orders to the Waffen SS?

H0919-0057

A The chief of the anti-Partisan units first was a general of the police, and only later on became also a general of the Waffen SS. He was made general of the SS only when beside troops of the regular army; and also some Waffen SS units were put under his command temporarily.

COLONEL GRIFFITH JONES: May we have his name?

THE WITNESS: The chief was General Von Den Bach Zelowski, and this general was a witness before the High Court.

H0919-0058

BY DR. KOESSL:

Q What was the reason for setting up the office of the Chief of the anti-Partisan units?

A It was Himmler's idea to make a superior office to the army units in the individual places, and in the individual area for the purpose of bringing out and making his own position more important.

LT. COLONEL BROOKHART: Again we are wandering far afield. Where is it to be ended.

CAPTAIN TUBRIDY: Can you explain Mr. Koessl.

DR. KOESSL: The reason is it was declared by the Prosecution that the Waffen SS had taken part in the anti-Partisan activities, and had committed crimes against humanity.

LT. COLONEL BROOKHART: May we have the questions as pertains to their participation then.

CAPTAIN TUBRIDY: Yes.

DR. KOESSL: And on account of the actual stories about the activities of the SS in specific places according to different witnesses, and then because this witness was at home.

BY DR. KOESSL:

Q Was the Battalion Dirlewanger a unit of the SS?

A The Battalion Dirlewanger consisted of troops which were not convicted of dishonesty, but a breach of honor activity, and, therefore, could not be considered a part of the Waffen SS. They were not organized by the SS Main Leadership Offices. It was only the last year they were made into an army rehabilitation unit of troops which were not considered suitable so far as their honor was concerned for the army.

CAPTAIN TUBRIDY: The question was, was this battalion a part of the SS. Cannot that be answered, yes or no?

THE WITNESS: It can be answered with a "no" because no SS men were in it.

BY DR. KOESSL:

Q From whom did Dirlewanger get his orders?

A The battalion received its orders either from the SS

H0919-0059

Main Office, or from the Higher Police and SS officials, under whose command they were placed temporarily.

Q What were the relations there between the State Security Office, and the SS Main Leadership Office?

LT. COLONEL BROOKHART: I object upon the grounds it is accumulative. The evidence has already been given by other witness.

DR. KOESSL: I want to know how many members of the Waffen SS were under the State or Reichs Security Office, and working for it.

CAPTAIN TUBRIDY: Then why don't you ask that question, Mr. Koessl?

BY DR. KOESSL:

Q Answer that.

A At the beginning of the war against Russia, the Reichs Main Security Office received three companies, that is, one from each army group as guard units. These companies later on were pulled back. Otherwise, the only ones of the Reichs Security Main Office were only the individuals which were trained, or which were being trained there. These men were included in the company of the Reichs Main Security Office. That had to be done because nobody according to an order could be discharged from the Waffen SS since 1940, and at the same time this replaced the important necessity of classification which existed in the German army. These men received in this way were not required, or did not have to do any duties in the army by having this classification.

Q Was the Waffen SS connected with the troops used by the units of the Reichs Main Security Office, and the SD?

CAPTAIN TUBRIDY: What is that again?

BY DR. KOESSL:

Q Was the Waffen SS connected with the tropps -- the operational troops used by the Reichs Main Security Office, and the SD - or the Einsatztruppen, which is in the Security service? Was the SS taking part in these units, or any part of these units?

H0919-0060

LT. COLONEL BROOKHART: The name is important there. Was that the Einsatzgruppen?

THE WITNESS: I heard the word "Einsatzgruppen" in prison for operational groups of the Reichs Security Office, and the Security service. I heard that word for the first time here in prison. Therefore, I do not know anything about the connections, or use of the Waffen SS with these units.

BY DR. KOESSL:

Q The Prosecution said that the Waffen SS took part in, or perpetrated executions in the Protectorate in 1941. What do you know about that?

A Obergruppenfuehrer Heydrich pronounced martial law in the Protectorate, and as Reichs Protector established court martials; for the executions or sentence replacement units of the Waffen SS were used without the SS Main Leadership Office so being informed. Knowledge of these replacement units got back to me by telephone, and I complained about this with Himmler. Himmler wanted a report concerning this phase. Thereupon the report was given to Himmler. In the future, thereafter, things like that did not occur any more.

H0919-0061

COLONEL GRIFFITH-JONES: Could we have the date of that:

THE WITNESS: 1941. More than that I don't know.

DR. KOESSL: The happening as mentioned is in the Document No. USRR 60, and was dated 8 February; German translation oage 4142. May I continue?

CAPTAIN TUBRIDY: Yes.

BY DR. KOESSL:

Q. You were the representative of Himmler as Commander of the Replacement Army?

A. Yes.

Q. Was it he name of Himmler as Chief of Replacement Army; was the Replcement Army placed under Himmler?

A. No, it was only connected with the person of Himmler, and my own person.

Q. As a continuous representative of the Chief of the Replacement Army, was the prisoner of war system under your command also?

A. No. The "PW" or prisoner of war office was under the High Command, and when it was given to Himmler, he in turn handed it over to Obergruppenguehrer Berger.

Q. Did the office of Obergruppenfuehrer Berger have anything to do with the prisoner of war administration?

A. No, the office of Obergruppenfuehrer Berger did not have anything to do the "PW" administration. It was only the person of Berger himself.

Q. Did the SS have any advantages, before or after, with its order, or had greater command on the production in the concentration camps?

A. There must be a mistake somewhere. The Waffen SS never did order and never received any of the production of these concentration camps. Something else, however, was understood between the High Command, and Himmler. Three per cent of the work that was done in the aramament industries. which was done by prisoners from these camps, was turned over to the Economic and Administration Offices. This three per cent at this time was figured out into man-hours of wkr, and then again we figured into the hours of work that were needed upon the weapons, or upon the rifles. Before that

the High Command of the Army delivered weapons or rifles to the SS. That was only done for about three months. After that it was impossible to do it any more. The delivered rifles and machine guns were figured as equipment for the SS Divisions.

Q. Did the Waffen SS have anything to do with the biological experments in the concentration camps?

A. Only at this time have I heard of these biological experiments on human beings, and I did not know anything about them before. The Medical Department of the SS, however, did not have anything to dotwith it.

Q. Did the SS MAin Leadership Office ever hear of the fact that millions of Jews were killed in the executions in the extermination camps?

A. I did not know anything about these extermination camps, and it was only here in prison that I heard about it, and saw them in the movies. I remember, although I do not remember exactly what year, that I asked Himmler at the time when the Jews were deported from Berlin, what was happening here. Himmler said "I do not have any headaches about it, that the Jews would be put into labor camps and would work there". No other members of the Waffen SS ever talked to me about those extermination camps.

Q. Did you hear of any other inhuman treatements that were happening in the concentration camps?

A. I never visited any concentration camps, but I had a large workship near the concentration camp of Oranienberg, in which prisoners from the camps were working. I only know that these prisoners liked to work for us, and that they never complained about treatment in the camps.

Q. Did you know as Chief of the SS Leadership Offices, that the fight against the Partisans was only a cover for the destruction and killing of the Jews and the local population?

A. I did not hear anything about. I just know that such units did exist.

Q. Did you, as Chief of the SS Main Leadership Office, ever give, or hear of any orders, which were inhumane, and concerning about any inhumanity during combat, or during the war?

H0919-0062

A. Just the opposite is the case. I gave orders that the training of young leaders should include teaching about the Geneva Convention, and of the International rights, as I thknk they really should be done with young and ready leaders.

Q. Was the Waffen SS connected with, or did it take part in the evacuation prògram in the East?

A. The Waffen SS did not have anything to do with the evacuation program.

Q. Did you, as Chief of the SS Main Leadership Office ever hear about the fact that in the East, that by tactical units of Security Police and Security Service, 10,000 people were killed?

LT. COLONEL BRUCKHART: I object to the witness answering, he said he does not know.

H0919-0063

CAPTAIN TURBRIDY: Let him say. Just a minute, when the witness in answering does not know, will you please instruct him to say he does not know without explaining why he does not know. If the question can be answered, yes or no, we prefer he answer it yes or no.

BY DR. KOESSL

Q How did it come by the name of "SS Police Regiments." Were these regiments of the Waffen SS?

A No, it was not a regiment of the Waffen SS. It was an honor given to them by Himmler.

Q Did these regiments actually belong to the SS?

A No, these regiments were regiments of the border Police.

Q As to the personnel staff of the Reichsfuehrer SS, did that staff take part or work on the orders for the Waffen SS?

A No.

Q Was the Leadership Offices of the Reichsfuehrer SS connected constantly with the personnel staff of the Reichsfuehrer SS?

A No, that is not the case.

DR. KOESSL: I am now finished with the questioning of the witness.

CAPTAIN TURBRIDY: Any cross examination?

COLONEL GRIFFITH JONES: I want to ask a few questions about the position of the Waffen SS troops in the field.

BY COLONEL GRIFFITH JONES:

Q Of the SS Standarte, how many men were there in that organization?

A I don't know the exact number. There were about 3,000 men, and it was part of the regular army unit.

Q The SS Standarte, were they all commanded by SS officers?

A During peace, yes, but during the war around two divisions and also army officers were included.

Q I asked about the officers who commanded the Standarte, the commanding officers of the Standarte.

A That was the Standarte leader colonel.

Q Try to make him answer my question please. Were they SS officers?

A Yes.

Q Then I take it thay a great majority of the officers serving in each standa

H0919-0064

were SS officers?

A Yes.

Q And were a few Wehrmacht officers there only because of the difficulty of re-enforcements during the fighting?

A No, The Wehrmacht Army Officers went over into the SS during the war, and other General Staff officers were commanded to go over to the SS in addition, as doctors, veterinarians and physicians.

Q Did that take place early due to the difficulty of re-enforcing units with the SS officers, that they were missing, the SS officers actually were missing? I still want to get an actual answer. Was the employment of the Wehrmacht officers with the SS during the war due only to the difficulty of re-enforcing SS units with SS units. I want a yes or no answer?

A Yes, it was held because of that.

Q The SS officers were trained, were they not, in SS schools and training establishments?

A Yes, SS officers schools.

Q And no other Wehrmacht officers were trained in those schools?

A No, only officers of the SS, and only officers of the Wehrmacht at times visited these schools.

Q Was the SS main headquarters responsible for the promotion of officers in the SS units, or did they come under the ordinary Wehrmacht organization?

A They came from Himmler.

Q Were the appointments of officers to the command, and to the staff made by Himmler, or by the normal army organization?

A From Himmler.

Q Now you have told us that the SS units served in the field under the command of Wehrmacht general?

A Yes.

Q Who detailed the particular units that were to serve in the particular army or corps?

A The General Staff ordered that.

Q Did Himmler have any control over the allotment of SS officers to the general commands?

A No, that was the duty or the job of the Wehrmacht.

H0919-0065

Q at the beginning of the war when the armies were being grouped, was it Himmler who originally allotted the SS units to the armies concerned?

A No, that came from the Fuehrer's Headquarters.

Q Of the Einsatzgruppen. what headquarters detailed men that were to make up the Einsatz groups?

A I didnnot hear about these Einsatz groups before. I just heard about them here.

Q Are you really saying as Chief of the main Waffen SS Offices, you did not know that you had Waffen SS men serving with units known as Einsatzgruppen, or Einsatz commanders?

H0919-0066

H0919-0067

A Yes, I want to say that.

Q Very well. Did you know that you had SS units detailed to fight Partisans in the Eastern territories?

A Yes, I heard about that.

Q Were those units detailed from your office, or from other SS offices?

A No, it was decided by the headquarters whether they were to work, or did duty as anti-Partisan units, or on the front.

Q By that I imagine you mean that the army headquarters could serve?

A Yes.

Q Did I understand you to say that Von Den Bach Zelowski was not an SS officer until he was appointed Chief of the anti-Partisan unit?

A He was made a General of the Waffen SS a long time after he had taken over the anti-Partisan bureau, or the anti-Partisan office, and he formerly was G eneral of the Police.

Q Had he been before that in the Allgemeine SS?

A Yes.

Q At what date would you say that he became Chief of the anti-Partisan unit?

A I can not give you the date. However, already as Higher SS and Police officials, we had at the beginning of the war anti-Partisan fights in the East.

Q But do you say that he did not become a Waffen SS General until long after he had been appointed Chief of the anti-Partisan unit?

A As far as I remember that was the case. I cannot say exactly.

Q Now let me tell you what he himself said. He said, and I quote from page 2,220 of the transcript: "I was promoted on 9 November 1941, Obergruppenfuehrer and General of the Waffen SS." Would you agree with him that was probably the correct date?

A I think that he was appointed later on. However, I cannot say for sure. I believe that he formerly was general of the police.

Q That is what he said. We won't argue about that. Then he goes on to say, and I quote on page 2,223: "Otherwise I was there until the end of 1942 when I was appointed chief of the anti-Partisan units." Will you

H0919-0068

now agree that date is the correct date of his appointment?

A That I cannot say.

Q The only reason I called your attention to that matter is because I wanted you to understand it. You had given us evidence as to certain facts, and, yet, upon that one fact you are completely incorrect. You realize that, do you?

A I don't see anything wrong. I just said and I told the Court what I tell you, the way I know it.

Q Now you go onto say that the Totenkoptverbaende had nothing to do with the Waffen SS, is that correct?

A No, I did not say that. I must have been misunderstood.

Q May I take it that the Totenkoptverbaende was not a part of the organization of the Waffen SS?

A Yes, they came during the war.

Q The Waffen SS was only in existence during the war, was it not, and got its name during the war?

A Yes.

Q And the Totenkoptverbaende was an intregal part of department in that organization?

A Yes, during the war.

Q I just want to ask one or two questions about your name. Would you first sign your name on a piece of paper(Whereupon the witness writes his name on a paper). Did I understand you to say that you asked Himmler what was going to happen to the Jews that were being taken out of Berlin?

A Yes.

Q Were you worried about what was going to happen to them?

A No. However, it was rather interesting that all of a sudden that these people were taken from Berlin.

Q So you only asked Himmler what was going to happen to them, because it was interesting, is that it?

A Yes, that interested me very much. I proved that later on sofar as the Hungarian Jews were concerned.

Q And Himmler answered, "You need have no headaches."?

A Yes, Himmler said that, and he also said that the Jews would be put

H0919-0069

into large work camps, and would work there.

Q Just one or two more questions I want to ask on that. If the purpose of your question was purely of interest, why should Himmler have said, "You need have no headaches." Will you explain that?

A I just want to say that even it was known in the highest circles of the SS that I opposed the position of Himmler to the number of incidents, and that he did not want me as a political person, so far as politics were concerned.

Q My second question is this, were you quite happy that the Jews should be deported, and put into labor camps, and turned into slaves to work for Germany. Were you quite contented with Himmler's answer about that?

A No, I know Himmler did not say "slaves", but he said that they should be there under their own ruling.

H0919-0070

Q But did you see nothing wrong yourself in taking the Jews away from their homes, and putting them into labor camps?

A I did not think it too well since before the way they had given the Jews the chance and the OK to leave Germany. It was my opinion that if they did not want the change, it would be better to make them immigrate into foreign countries.

Q I am asking you, did you see anything wrong in taking away the Jews from their homes, and putting them into labor camps? Was that quite consistent with your conscience?

A No, my conscience was actually against it, but I had nothing to do with it. I officially could not do anything since I, as an official, did not have anything to do with it.

Q Was that form of procedure consistent with the general teaching that the SS gave their officers, of that kind of treatment to the Jews? Was that in accordance with the teaching of the SS to their officers?

A No. However, I would like to add that Himmler said that it would be impossible to have Jews in a town like Berlin with such a circle of officers, and with Jewish espoinage leaders.

Q All right, we will leave that. Will you show him (the witness) this, and tell whether this is your signature?

A Yes, that is my signature --

Q Just read it, will you?

A (continuing) -- and that is the letter I referred to before.

CAPTAIN TUBRIDY: May we have, for the record, what it is.

THE WITNESS: That is the letter I referred to before concerning my speech, or talk to Himmler concerning the martial law

BY COLONEL GRIFFITH JONES:

Q Now we will just see what you refer to. It is PS-1972 US 471 (showing the witness the document) reading as follows in part: "I deliver the following report regarding the commitment of the Waffen SS in the Protectorate Behemia and Moravia during

H0919-0071

the civilian state of emergency." It is written on 14 October 1941. "In the mutual changes, all Battalions of the Waffen SS in the Protectorate Bohemia and Moravia will be brought forth for shootings, and relatively for the supervision at hangings. Up until now there occurred in Praguc 99 shootings, and 21 hangings; in Brucen, 54 shootings and 17 hangings, a total of 191 executions, including 16 Jews. A complete report regarding other measures and on the conduct of the officers, non-coms and men will be made following the termination of the civilian state of emergency."

Were you in the habit of reporting to the Reichsfuehre the shootings and hangings that the SS troops carried out: Was that part of your job?

A No, this report only occurred because I complained to the Reichsfuehrer of SS that Heydrich had used the Waffen SS for the executions, and I had to prove this. They almost produced a mutiny with the units.

Q You say that you handed the activities of Heydrich in the Protectorate, but nothing of the doings of the Einsatzkommando and the anti-Partisan SS units of the Eastern territory?

A These units were replacement units that were under me, and reported to me immediately, and complained to me.

COLONEL GRIFFITH JONES: Very well, that is all.

CAPTAIN TUBRIDY: Colonel Smirnov, do you wish to ask any questions?

COLONEL SMIRNOV: No, I have none.

LT. COLONEL BROOKHART: I have a few.

CROSS EXAMINATION

BY LT. COLONEL BROOKHART:

Q What was the relationship of the rank of commander between yourself and General Berger?

A He had exactly the same rank as I, Chief of SS Main Office, and I was neither under him, nor was he under me.

Q Had General Berger ever referred to you in his problem of recruiting for the SS?

H0919-0072

A Yes, that was discussed between the replacement office and my office, and he also talked to me about it.

Q What did he ever tell you about his conferences with Himmler growing out of the fact that the SS had such a reputation for being ruthless Killers, so that the recruiting program became very difficult?

A No, he never said anything about it to me --

Q Do you have any knowledge --

A (continuing) -- but, however, he should have told me that. Berger however said something else. Maybe it was a mistake, due to the fact that the Waffen SS had such a large number of casualties that the recruiting was getting more difficult; that we settled.

Q Did Berger ever say anything about his having written Himmler under a secret classification on this problem?

A No. The relation between Berger and myself was not in such a way that he told me anything personally.

Q Referring now to another matter. How often did you visit Oranienberg?

A I never visited the concentration camp, but my workshop was there.

Q How often?

A About five or six times, maybe.

H0919-0073

Q Was it known to you by reason of what you saw, and what you heard, and by what you smelled, that there were executions going on and extermination by burning of human beings going on in the concentration camps?

A No. I never went into the concentration camp.

Q That is not my question. Shall I repeat?

A Yes.

Q Was it known to you when you visited your workshop in Oranienberg, that by what you saw, and what you heard, and what you smelled, that there were exterminations and burning of human beings in Oranienberg camp?

A No, that was not possible.

Q Don't you know that the odor from the burning of cadavers at Oranienberg was so well known that even the children on the streets of that town talked about it?

A That was never told to me, otherwise, I would have known of it.

Q Another matter. You say that the Medical Department of the SS had nothing to do with experiments on human beings?

A Sofar as I remember, no.

Q You also say that the Waffen SS received nothing in the way of protection from concentration camps industries, is that right?

A From the products of the industries. Only the SS received more or less a certain percentage of the number of products by way of the Economic Administration.

Q What do you know about this. In the processing in the industry at Auschwitz, by the extermination of Jews there was the by-product from the extraction of gold from the teeth of the victims, and that regular shipments of the gold bars made from these extracted teeth were sent monthly to the Medical Department of the SS?

A I don't know anything about that, because if I would have heard anything about it I would have drawn in my own mind the consequences from it.

LT. COLONEL BROOKHART: That is all.

CROSS EXAMINATION

BY M. MONNERAY:

Q You said that the Waffen SS had no advantage to take anything out from the concentration camp.

A (No answer)

Q You said that the Waffen SS had no advantage to take anything out of the concentration camp?

A No, sofar as my office was concerned, we got a percentage of the work hours that was done by the men, by the prisoners in these concentration camps, and, I want also to add -- I want to say that that was what was told me. On this question of the gold bars that were sent to the Medical Department of the SS, that could not be true, and that the only person that could have received them would be the Reichsphysician of the SS, or the Reichsdoktor of the SS. The Reichsdoktor of the SS was directly under the Reichsfuehrer of SS.

Q The SS Reichsstandarte, was it a part of the Waffen SS.

A Yes.

Q Do you know, or have you any knowledge of this speech made by Himmler, or the address given to the offices of the SS, the Reichstandarte, by Himmler on the day at Metz?

A Yes, I heard of that speech which created quite a bit of bad blood, because it stated that each was forced to get a little house. Later on that was the money that was to be paid from the money that was from the products that were produced in the concentration camps. They said that they would not accept any gifts through the work of others, because in that way they would not become dependent.

Q Do you mean by that, dependent from the workers?

A What do you mean by that?

Q What do you mean by dependent - from the relationship of dependents?

A That they would not be a dependent. That Himmler, he did not want any gifts.

M. MONNERAY: That is all.

CAPTAIN TUBRIDY: Do you have any questionm Mr.Koessl.

DR. KOESSL: Yes, I have two questions.

CAPTAIN TUBRIDY: How long will they take.

DR. KOESSL: They are very short questions.

CAPTAIN TUBRIDY: How long? How many minutes?

DR. KOESSL : Mostly ten minutes.

H0919-0074

CAPTAIN TUBRIDY: All right. I think we had better adjourn and you may hold them until after lunch, say, 1410 hours.

(A recess was taken until 1410 hours).

H0919-0075

H0919-0076

AFTERNOON SESSION

(The hearing reconvened at 1410 hours, 23 May 1946)

HANS JUETTNER - Resumed

CROSS EXAMINATION - Continued.

BY M. MONNERAY:

I should like to finish cross examination of the witness, and will read an excerpt from the Document 1918 PS. I want to read the speech of Himmler concerning treatment of inferior people, it is about the guarding of the inferior people:

"This activity is necessary, as I said, 1, to eliminate those negative people from the German people, 2, to exploit them once more for the great folk community by having t em break stones and bake bricks so that the Fuehrer can againerect his grand buildings, and 3, to in turn invest the money, earned soberly this way, in houses, in ground, in settlements so that our men can have houses in which to raise large families and lots of children."

Q Himmler was made Chief of the Waffen SS from what time on?

A From the beginning.

Q And the idealogy of Himmler concerning the inferior beings which are mentioned was quite well known to people joining the Waffen SS, wasn't that so?

COLONEL NEAVE: I don't think he has quite understood the question. Could you re-translate that?

A I can't answer that. I don't know whether the individual man knew of it.

BY M. MONNERAY:

Q But during the years of training of new members joining the Waffen SS and the SS, this idolatry about inferior beings has been taught, isn't that so?

A There was no time to do that after the war.

Q And before the war?

A During the war our training was limited to history and Adolf Hitler's Mein Kampf.

Q But before the war this teaching and training of idealogy had been carried through, hadn't it?

H0919-0077

A As far as it touched the national socialist ideology, and, of course it was touched also in the course of instructions. A distinction must be made between Himmler as Reich Fuehrer of the SS and Himmler as Chief of the German Police.

Q And people joining the SS before the war at least knew that Himmler, according to ideology, that these inferior beings had to be put a side or under protection in special camps?

A The whole German people knew that their social government had to be safeguarded in concentration camps.

Q Is it right that the concentration camps were under the administration of the SS and especially Himmler. I am more particularly interested in this end -- the organization of the camps.

DR. KOESSL: I want to say something about the point of his mentionin inferior beings.

COLONEL NEAVE: Are you making an objection to the French Prosecutor's question or what?

DR. KOESSL: I want to object to the question because the military government itself organized in a large part the concentration camps and people were put there for reasons of crimes.

COLONEL NEAVE: I can't accept that. You must raise that in your re-examination. Go on, please.

BY M. MONNERAY:

Q So it is right that matters of the concentration camps were under the administration of the SS?

A No, that is not correct.

M. MONNERAY: That is all.

REDIRECT EXAMINATION

BY DR. KOESSL:

Q When were the TOTENKOPF Regiments 5 to 18 placed under Heissmayer?

A In 1939 and 1940, I don't know exactly. When they were placed under the main leadership office a large part of these Totenkopf formations were dissolved.

Q When these SS formations were under Heissmayer did the Waffen SS

H0919-0078

already exist?

A Yes.

Q Was Heissmayer with the Totenkopf formations a part of the Waffen SS?

A No.

Q Were there two kinds of Totenkopf regiments?

A The Totenkopf divisions and the replacement units were immediately Waffen SS. The Totenkopf formations under Heissmayer became part of the Waffen SS later.

H0919-0079

Q When the Totemkopf regiments, 5 to 8, existed under Heissmayer they were not yer a part of the Waffen SS?

A No, otherwise they would not have been under Heissmayer.

Q You said that the Waffen SS was credited for the working hours of the concentration camps?

A Yes.

Q What was the advantage for the Waffen SS in this?

A The divisions could be equipped more quickly to this delivery of weapons.

Q Would the Waffen SS have received the same weapons if it had not been credited with working hours?

A Yes.

Q Did the Wehrmacht receive weapons in the same way?

A No, that was an agreement between Himmler and the High Command of the Wehrmacht.

Q As Chief of the SS main leadership office did you learn where the troop replacements and medical matters came from?

A They were received from the office of the Reich doctor of the SS or pharmaceutical people.

Q Did this Reich doctor of the SS have anything to do with the Waffen SS?

A He could give technical instructions about medical matters.

Q Do you know in what form the gold was delivered?

A I know nothing about the gold.

Q How high were the losses of the Waffen SS?

A By estimate, 250,000.

Q Were these losses at certain times at least higher in per- centage than those of the Wehrmacht?

A They were higher in the French campaign in the Totenkopf Division because those Totenkopf Divisions had not been trained enough before it was sent into action.

Q Did you talk with Obergruppenfuehrer Berger about recruitments for losses that they sustained?

A No.

H0919-0080

COLONEL NEAVE: Has AMTSGRUPPE W been discusses earlier today? Just for my guidance as I wasn't here this morning, who was Obergruppenfuehrer Berger?

A The Prosecution said that Berger obstructed recruitment. It was hard to recruit for the Waffen SS because it was such a bloody formation.

BY DR. KOESSL:

Q Do you know whether the population believed that the Waffen SS had losses greater than those of the Wehrmacht?

A In 1940 the news was spread that we had very great losses.

COLONEL NEAVE: Does that finish with your witness, Dr. Koessl?

DR. KOESSL: That is all the questions I had to ask him.

(THE COMMISSION ADJOURNED AT 1430 HOURS)

The foregoing is a true and correct transcript of the testimony of HANS JUETTNER, taken on 23 May 1946.

H. B. DARROW
Reporter

CHARLES J GALLAGHER
Reporter

ROSE W COOK
Reporter

CERTIFIED TO:

JOSEPH F TUBRIDY
Commissioner